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# REGULAR and ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE ~MINUTES~

PRESENT:

MAYOR MITCHELL, MR. OLIVEIRA, MR. AMARAL, MR. COTTER, DR. FINNERTY

MR. LIVRAMENTO, MR. NOBREGA

ABSENT:

NONE

IN ATTENDANCE:

DR. DURKIN, MR. DEFALCO, DR. RABINOVITCH, MS. EMSLEY, MS. BETTENCOURT,

MRS. DUNAWAY (Recording Secretary)

Student Representative, Katherine Gomes, was in attendance.

Mayor Mitchell and the members of the Committee welcomed Mr. Christopher A. Cotter to the School Committee. Mr. Cotter, along with Mayor Mitchell, Mr. Oliveira and Mr. Livramento were sworn in at the City Inauguration Ceremony on January 4, 2016, having been elected/re-elected on November 3, 2016.

At this time, Mr. Oliveira nominated Joshua Amaral to be the Vice Chairperson for 2016. It was seconded by Dr. Finnerty. There were no other nominations.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell - Yes

Mr. Amaral - Abstain

Mr. Cotter - Yes

Mr. Livramento - Yes

Mr. Nobrega - Yes

Dr. Finnerty - Yes

Mr. Oliveira - Yes

6 - Yeas

0 - Navs

1 – Abstention

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to approve the following Sub Committee assignments:

Policy:

Mr. Amaral, Chair, Mr. Oliveira, Mr. Cotter

Curriculum:

Dr. Finnerty, Chair, Mr. Amaral, Mr. Livramento

Finance:

Mr. Oliveira, Chair, Mr. Nobrega, Dr. Finnerty

Facilities:

Mr. Oliveira, Chair, Mr. Nobrega, Dr. Finnerty

Transportation:

Mr. Livramento, Chair, Mr. Cotter, Mr. Amaral

SMEC Designee:

Mr. Cotter

PACE Designee:

Mr. Livramento

#### Approval of Minutes: (Supporting documents labeled "3")

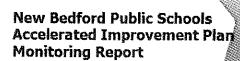
The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to accept the following meeting minutes as presented:

- Policy Sub Committee Meeting: September 24, 2015
- Transportation Sub Committee Meeting: October 27, 2015
- Transportation Sub Committee: November 4, 2015
- Finance Sub Committee: November 12, 2015
- Regular Meeting: November 16, 2015
- Regular Meeting: December 14, 2015

Superintendent's Report (Dr. Durkin): (Supporting documents labeled "4")

Dr. Durkin introduced Shanell Lavery as the new Equity, Diversity and Recruitment Specialist.

Laura Richane and Thomas Pandiscio, of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), delivered the Accelerated Improvement Plan Monitoring Report. The reporting period is from August – November, 2015.



Presentation to the School Community January 11, 2016





#### Introduction

- Reporting period: August November
- Building on previous work
- · Areas of focus:
  - Coordinating curriculum, instruction, assessment and data use
  - · Establishing student support systems
  - Differentiating professional development
  - Increasing family engagement
- Alignment of work at all levels



#### Strategic Objective 1: Implementing Rigorous Standards; Monitoring Student Progress

- Implementation included:
  - Learning walks with liaisons, CAO, principals
  - · Baseline learning walk data collected
  - · Curriculum training, planning
  - · Assessment calendar established
- Next steps:
  - Continue learning walks and feedback
  - · Identify additional curriculum training opportunities

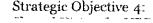
#### Strategic Objective 2: Systems to Support Student Needs

- Implementation included:
  - · PBIS behavior expectation matrix for pilot schools
  - Professional development for PBIS
  - Guidance for Support Teams, special education
  - Focus on high leverage SEI classroom strategies
- · Next steps:
  - Analyze data to measure the impact of PBIS pilot
  - Gather data to measure the extent of improvement of systems for student referral and evaluation
  - Compare 2015, 2014 ELL BOY Galileo scores



## Strategic Objective 3: Professional Development

- Implementation included:
  - · Targeted professional development plans
  - Support for principals professional development facilitation, leadership skills
- Next step:
  - Monitor quality of professional development; determine whether teachers' instruction has changed as a result of professional development



#### **Process and Performance Ratings**

- Process ratings:
  - · Practices in Place- 4 initiatives
  - · Technical Implementation Stage 6 initiatives
- Performance ratings:
  - Partially Reached Performance Goals—
     10 initiatives



Four Strategic Objectives were reviewed and summarized as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Prepare all NBPS students for college and career success by implementing rigorous standards and using data to monitor student progress in attaining those standards to a level of proficiency.

This framework, along with the recently developed Office of Instruction Learning Walk Guide, has provided district leaders with clear focus for their work as instructional leaders. The district has used these tools during the current period to establish a baseline for instructional improvement by conducting and calibrating the results of learning walks in both ELA and math with a particular lens on both special education and sheltered English instruction (SEI) strategies.

Strategic Objective 2: Develop effective systems and structures to support the unique academic and social-emotional needs of all students.

A key strategy to support students is to implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) in middle schools and selected elementary schools in order to create a positive school climate.

Secondly, the district has taken steps to improve its systems for referral, evaluation and service to struggling students.

Finally, the district is continuing its efforts to support ELL students in all environments. To accomplish this, the district has strategically aligned administrative training, professional development for teachers, and learning walks to promote the use of high leverage SEI strategies in classrooms.

Strategic Objective 3: Expand school and staff capacity to deliver effective, engaging, and rigorous instruction to all students (Professional Development).

The district addressed this objective by including targeted professional development plans in School Improvement Plans (SIPs), which provided for input at the school level about instructional focus areas and staff development.

The district has established a monthly series comprised of twelve workshops that will help principals learn to use professional development time effectively and build a culture of adult learning in their schools.

Strategic Objective 4: Create, communicate, build, and support momentum for the vision of NBPS that will be embraced by the New Bedford community and all of its stakeholders.

Schools have tracked parent attendance at open houses and have worked with their staffs to conduct outreach to families of students who did not attend an open house.

Schools are reaching out to parents on a regular basis to invite them to meet with their children's teachers. Also, a second student survey will be issued to middle and high school students to measure their perceptions of their connectedness to adults in their schools.

Mr. Oliveira commented that he read in the full report an area that asked, what are the indicators that teachers are taking more risks to improve their practice? He went on to say that he has heard teachers are not taking risks because they are hesitant. Ms. Richane explained that it was difficult to assess at this time but perhaps an analysis of learning walk data could provide evidence. She went on to say that Dr. Durkin wanted that question in the report as that is something the district is very focused on. Mr. Oliveira stated that he would be interested in the results.

Mr. Livramento asked what the district needs to do to support the ELL population. Dr. Pandiscio replied that currently, there is a tremendous focus, especially since students have been properly identified and there has been aggressive training of staff.

Dr. Durkin stated that the district is trying to play "catch up" after identifying more students. Teachers are taking the SEI course and the district is working on getting staff endorsed as quickly as possible but space is limited. She went on to comment that the state needs to expand the course offerings to provide for teachers who need to be certified.

Dr. Finnerty asked about learning walks and how it relates to the report. Dr. Pandiscio explained that he does not monitor the learning walks but monitors the plan. The bar has been set high and the plan is a solid plan, showing integrity and fidelity.

Dr. Durkin explained that the learning walks are not to evaluate teachers. Learning Walks are focused on specific things such as how much work is being doing by the students and how much work is being done by teachers. We want students to be working towards becoming more independent thinkers. Learning Walks are used to see what works and what doesn't.

Dr. Finnerty stated that the staff is working extremely hard and there is a huge sense of frustration because the results are not improving. Dr. Finnerty also commented that he felt the report was not critical enough.

Mr. Amaral asked what he should look for in the report as a School Committee member. Dr. Pandiscio replied that the School Committee should review the report to not only use it as a barometer educationally, but to identify deficiencies in the budget and to drive policies if appropriate. To a question by Mr. Amaral on where else the district could improve, Dr. Pandiscio responded that there remain deficiencies around

student support — as middle school and high school students need someone to identify with and need an adult with whom they have affinity. It's a big problem that the district has to work on.

Ms. Richane added that district leaders have their finger on the pulse and know the issues that are problematic in the district. The administration is focusing on the right things.

Mayor Mitchell inquired about the types of supports that they would recommend. Dr. Pandiscio responded that added wraparound support is recommended for physical, social and emotional needs. Alternative Education Update:

Ms. Bettencourt delivered an update involving the Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) framework explaining that the PBIS framework is based on a three-tiered prevention logic. PBIS framework is used at three middle schools, the high school and some elementary schools. Tier 1 or primary prevention practices are established in all classroom and school-wide settings to (a) teach and encourage expected behavior, (b) prevent problem behavior, and (c) most importantly, maximize academic achievement. Tier 2 or secondary prevention practices supplement Tier 1 to provide further behavior supports for students whose behaviors are at risk of failure and/or are unresponsive to Tier 1 practices. Tier 3 practices are highly specialized and implemented at the individual student level by a team with behavior

Mayor Mitchell stated that he is hearing that classrooms would be more orderly if students were properly

To a question by Dr. Finnerty, Ms. Bettencourt responded that PBIS systems in classrooms are currently located at the three middle schools, the high school and several elementary schools. She also stated that

Dr. Finnerty asked about cultural competence in regard to teachers.

Ms. Bettencourt responded that staff members are also learning how to manage classrooms and to be aware of cultural differences such as how a student may react to sarcasm or a particular demeanor.

Ms. Bettencourt went on to explain that if supports are not successful, a student may be recommended for placement in a behaviorally-based or therapeutic program only if certain criteria are met.

Mr. Cotter voiced his concern commenting that he has been hearing that emphasis should be on classroom management and blame being put on some teachers not accepting the diverse student. He went on to say that in his opinion, behavior is not a diverse issue -behavior is behavior. Core values have always been in

Ms. Bettencourt responded that this may be misinterpreted – students have mental health issues, home environment, nutrition, witness trauma, and many other concerns. She continued that teachers are being taught not to just look at the behavior, but what else is going on in the child's life that may be causing the

Ms. Bettencourt continued by explaining other settings including the Comprehensive Behavior Intervention Program (CBIP), therapeutic program at Trinity Day Academy and the more restrictive environment at

Mr. Amaral asked what the School Committee should keep in mind when reviewing the FY 17 budget. Ms. Bettencourt responded that more School Adjustment Counselors, Behavior Specialists and supports, and a counterpart to the Trinity program for the elementary level.

Bernadette Coelho, Headmaster of New Bedford High School, addressed the School Committee and provided an Advanced Placement update as follows:

# Saturday Sessions

- We had 83% participation in the first ELA Saturday session
- We had a 67% participation in the first science session.

# Support

- Mass Insight subject coordinators have spent considerable time in the school doing sample
- Specific training has been completed for AP teachers to access the curriculum on the APEX system as well as preparing for them to implement the online study guides in their classes. Students will be using the APEX system as part of the attendance buy-back program, and teachers have been targeting units of study to give struggling students additional supports.
- APEX online study tutorials are now available to teachers in English, calculus, chemistry, biology, Spanish, statistics, US History, and US Government.

# AP Seminar

- ELA: all students screened and we are now configuring the system to use the data to improve
- Next steps include grouping teachers together (one to work with acceleration group the
- Math: mid-year screening begins this week. This will generate growth reports as well as diagnostic information for teachers to use in better meeting the needs of students in their
- Develop training goals using Renaissance learning for all math teachers

Ms. Coelho was also pleased to announce that New Bedford High School will now be given the opportunity to award an AP Capstone diploma - NBHS is only one of nine schools statewide to be given this option. AP Capstone is an innovative diploma program that provides students with an opportunity to engage in rigorous academic practice of the core skills necessary for successful college completion. This will boost the chances of NBHS students being selected to enter great colleges and universities.

# Public Comment

- Eddie Johnson Concern for teachers
- John "Buddy" Andrade Use of gym at Gomes School

Business Office Report (Dr. Rabinovitch): (Supporting documents labeled "5"):

## **Financial Statement**

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that the cost centers were on target for spending to date.

# **Transfer of Funds**

Dr. Rabinovitch explained the transfers that needed the approval of the full committee. This item
was reviewed and referred by the Finance Sub Committee.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Livramento, to approve the following transfer of funds:

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40539513	2305	511451	Longevity	25435481	2453	580008	Other Instr	2,950	replace	District Wide
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07839510	2305	511451	Longevity	25435481	2453	580008	Equip Other Instr Hardware Districtwide Equip	3,150	email replace network infrastructure/ email	District Wide
27639510	2305	511451	Longevity	25435481	2453	580008	Other Instr Hardware Districtwide Equip	3,250	replace network infrastructure/ email	District Wide
50539514	2305	511451	Longevity	25435481	2453	580008	Other Instr Hardware Districtwide Equip	3,250	replace network infrastructure/ email	District Wide
12339532	2330	511451	Longevity	25435481	2453	580008	Other Instr Hardware Districtwide Equip	3,400	replace network infrastructure/ email	District Wide
14039510	2305	511451	Longevity	25435481	2453	580008	Other Instr Hardware Districtwide Equip	3,550	replace network infrastructure/ email	District Wide
50534810	2710	511451	Longevity	25435481	2453	580008	Other Instr Hardware Districtwide Equip	3,700	replace network infrastructure/ email	District Wide
50539533	2330	511451	Longevity	25435481	2453	580008	Other Instr Hardware Districtwide Equip	5,400	replace network infrastructure/ email	District Wide
50539510	2305	511451	Longevity	25435481	2453	580008	Other Instr Hardware Districtwide Equip	5,667	replace network infrastructure/ email	District Wide
04539510	2305	511451	Longevity	25435481	2453	580008	Other Instr Hardware Districtwide Equip	6,650	replace network infrastructure/ email	District Wide
40539511	2305	511451	Longevity	25435481	2453	580008	Other Instr Hardware Districtwide Equip	6,950	replace network infrastructure/ email	District Wide
61539580	2420	580005	Instr Equip Sea Lab	61530330	4110	511480	Custodial Overtime Sea Lab	1,000	to cover cost of custodial overtime	Sea Lab

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Livramento, to remove from the table, a transfer request involving the Middle School Stipends budget line, tabled at the last meeting.

Mayor Mitchell stated that as much as a particular Health Education program is needed, the money should be found elsewhere, as this was money that was earmarked for sports, art and music.

Dr. Durkin explained that educators made the decision collaboratively to transfer funds for the purpose of providing a health education related program to Whaling City students.

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted to approve the following transfer:

#### TABLED FROM LAST MEETING:

Org	Func	Obj	Description	Org	Func	ОЫ	Description	Amou	Reason	School or
27638811	3510	511110	Mid School Sports Stipends	51539541	2440	520004	Whaling City Contracted Services	<b>nt</b> 6,000	Provide Heath Ed to Whaling City students	Department DW/Whaling City

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – No Mr. Amaral – Yes
Mr. Cotter – No Mr. Livramento - Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes

5 – Yeas 2 – Nays 0 – Absent

Dr. Rabinovitch continued with a summary of the current Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) projects:

#### **MSBA**

- Hannigan
  - Complete access and ownership of 64-66 Emma Street will take place in the middle of January.
  - The district has received approval for the early demolition of the existing Hannigan building. This is planned for spring of 2016.
  - This project is on schedule.
- Taylor @ Sea Lab
  - Construction work has begun.
  - Job meetings are being held on Tuesday mornings at Sea Lab.
- Five Elementary Schools Accelerated Repair Projects
  - The MSBA Board will vote on our project on January 27, 2016.
  - A proposed language for the loan authorization to fund this project will be formulated.

Dr. Rabinovitch explained to the Committee that a pilot program, involving Building Based Substitutes, has been recommended to add more stability at several schools including the middle schools, large elementary schools, Parker School, art and physical education. There will be a total of 11 people involved, using funds from the Substitute Salary budget line.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to approve the appointing of Building Based Substitutes.

Personnel Report (Ms. Emsley) (Supporting document labeled "5B")

Ms. Emsley reviewed the personnel report with the Committee. She reported that there were 14 new hires, 15 retirements and six resignations since the last report in December.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to accept the Personnel Report.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Livramento, to accept the Business Office Report. (This vote was overlooked after the Business Office report.)

Several members gave reports.

The student representative gave her report.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Livramento, to approve the Sub Committee schedule for 2016. (Supporting document 6-A)

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to adopt/amend the following policies. This is the second and final reading. (Reviewed and approved by the Policy Sub Committee as part of the district's ongoing revision of the complete policy manual. This project is in consultation with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC)): (Supporting documents - 6B)

#### **SECTION B**

## **BOARD GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS**

•	BA	SCHOOL COMMITTEE OPERATIONAL GOALS
•	BAA	<b>EVALUATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES</b>
•	BB/BBAA	SCHOOL COMMITTEE LEGAL STATUS/MEMBER AUTHORITY
•	BBA	SCHOOL COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES
•	BBAA	SCHOOL COMMITTEE AUTHORITY
•	BBB	SCHOOL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS
•	BBBA/BBBB	SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS/OATH OF OFFICE
•	BBBC/BBBD/BBBE	SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER RESIGNATION/REMOVAL FROM
		OFFICE/UNEXPIRED TERM FULFILLMENT
•	BCA	SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ETHICS
•	BDA	SCHOOL COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
•	BDB	SCHOOL COMMITTEE OFFICERS
•	BDD	SCHOOL COMMITTEE - SUPERINTENDENT RELATIONSHIP
•	BDE	SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUB COMMITTEES
•	BDF	ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
•	BDFA	SCHOOL COUNCILS

<ul> <li>BDFA-E-1</li> </ul>	SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
<ul> <li>BDFA-E-2</li> </ul>	SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
<ul><li>BDFA-E-3</li></ul>	CONDUCT OF SCHOOL COUNCIL BUSINESS
• BDG	SCHOOL ATTORNEY
• BDH	CONSULTANTS TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
• BE	SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Eliminate: BA-E/Board Operational Goal; BDC/Appointed Committee Officials; BDH/Consultants to the S.C.; BE-E/SC Meetings/Open Meeting Law

#### **SECTION C**

#### **GENERAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

• CA	ADMINISTRATION GOALS
• CB	SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT
• CBD	SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT
• CBI	EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
• CC	ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION PLAN
• CCB	LINE OF AUTHORITY AND STAFF RELATIONS
<ul> <li>CDA (ALSO GCO)</li> </ul>	EVALUATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF
• CE	ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCILS, CABINETS AND COMMITTEES
• CF	SCHOOL BUILDING ADMINISTRATION
• CH	POLICY IMPLEMENTATION
• CHA	DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATIONS
<ul> <li>CHB (ALSO BGD)</li> </ul>	SCHOOL COMMITTEE REVIEW OF REGULATIONS
• CHC	REGULATIONS DISSEMINATION
• CHCA	APPROVAL OF HANDBOOKS AND DIRECTIVES
• CHD	ADMINISTRATION IN POLICY ABSENCE
• CL	ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Eliminate: CA-E/District Administrative Priority Objectives; CBA/Supt.'s Job Description; CM/School District Annual Report

## **SECTION D**

#### **FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

• DA	FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS
• DBD	BUDGET PLANNING
<ul> <li>DBE/DBF</li> </ul>	DISSEMINATION OF BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS/HEARINGS AND
	REVIEWS
• DBJ	BUDGET TRANSFER AUTHORITY
• DD	FUNDING PROPOSALS AND APPLICATIONS
• DH	BONDED EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS

DI FISCAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING DID INVENTORY CONTROL POLICY DIE **AUDITS** • DJ **PURCHASING** DJA **PURCHASING AUTHORITY** DJE **BIDDING REQUIREMENTS**  DJGA SALES CALLS AND DEMONSTRATIONS DK **PAYMENT PROCEDURES** DKA **PAYROLL PROCEDURES** DKC **EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS** DN MANAGEMENT OF SURPLUS SUPPLIES

Eliminate: DB/Annual Operating Budget; DBB/Fiscal Year; DBC/Budget Deadlines and Schedules; DBG/Budget Adoption Procedures; DEB/DEC/Revenues from State/Federal Tax Sources; DGA/Authorized Signatures; DJG/Vendor Relations

At 8:50 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session, without returning to Open Session, for the following:

To discuss strategies with respect to negotiations with union personnel

- Unit A New Bedford Educators Association
- Paraprofessionals

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell - Yes

Mr. Amaral - Yes

Mr. Cotter - Yes

Mr. Livramento - Yes

Mr. Nobrega – Yes

Dr. Finnerty - Yes

Mr. Oliveira - Yes

7 - Yeas

0 - Nays

0 - Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,

Lisa P. Dunaway

**Recording Secretary** 

Reviewed by,

Pia Durkin, Ph.D.

Superintendent, Secretary/School Committee